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## GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

Project Name: Electric Vehicle and Solar Power Recharging System

Submitting Entity: Friends of the St Joseph Bay Preserves

I. Please select one or more eligible activity that the project is classified under:

- ☒ Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
- ☐ Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.
- ☐ Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- ☒ Workforce development and job creation.
- ☐ Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- ☒ Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
- ☐ Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
- ☐ Planning assistance.
- ☒ Promotion of tourism and seafood in the Gulf Coast region.

II. Please provide an executive summary of the project. Describe/quantify the economic (jobs, infrastructure, tourism, etc.) and environmental benefits (habitat, quality, knowledge, long-term sustainability, etc.).

This project will provide the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve with an Electric All-Terrain Vehicle that can be used throughout the Preserve to shuttle visiting Wildlife Researchers, Botanists, Ornithologists, and Photographers to sites, with minimal noise production and disturbance. This heavy duty electric vehicle will be able to traverse the rough terrain and hard-to-reach areas and carry up to four passengers as well as equipment and supplies. With only a low hum produced by the electric motor, the user can approach wildlife virtually undetected therefore increasing the chance of observations. This vehicle will also be used by our Friends volunteers to monitor water table level sites, tree ring growth, and other projects which provide research data on this unique and relatively unspoiled ecosystem. A Photo Voltaic Solar Energy charging system will provide clean power for the vehicle, and the system as a whole can serve as a model for others to observe and consider for use at other Preserves and State Parks.

Eco-tours in this 'quiet' vehicle could attract tourists who want to explore the preserve and photograph nesting eagles and other wildlife with minimal intrusion. The project will also employ local labor to install the charging system and solar panels.

- III. Please provide a cost summary/budget. Detail any matching/cooperative funds available for use, and any cooperative support from governmental or other agencies.

Estimated Costs:

All-Wheel-Drive Polaris EV UTV.....	\$15,000.00
Two Kilowatt Photo Voltaic Solar System.....	<u>\$14,000.00</u>
Total Cost.....	\$29,000.00

Partnerships and cooperative support may be forthcoming from: Gulf County, including the Gulf County Tourist Development Council (TDC); Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Greenways and Trails; National Audubon Society; Area chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS).

- IV. Please provide a timeline for project completion. Explain the technical and environmental feasibility (including any permitting considerations) of the project.

Installation of the PV Solar charging system should not exceed two (2) months, which will be coincident with the lead time required for the delivery of the Polaris Ranger EV. Total project duration is therefore estimated at two (2) months. The only permit that will be required is a Gulf County building permit for the solar installation.

Electric motors have fewer moving parts than conventional combustion engines and Solar power generation is a proven technology of the space age. The electric vehicle will have minimal impact on the environment compared to a conventional ATV, especially with respect to noise and air pollution. It is therefore the more environmentally feasible option.

- V. Please provide the qualifications of the Submitting Entity, the financial feasibility/sustainability and the economic feasibility and sustainability of the project (probability of success, etc.).

The Friends of the St Joseph Bay Preserves is a not-for-profit Citizen Support Organization (CSO) that has been in existence for over nine years. It was established to protect, preserve and support the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve and the St Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve. The Friends raise funds and provide volunteer services to help manage the Preserves and foster better understanding and enjoyment of the Buffer Preserve and the Bay. With a current membership of nearly 200 members, and visitors during our two annual Bay Day events totaling over 700 individuals each year, the probability of success of this project is great. Donations obtained from visiting Scientists, Photographers, Botanists, and Researchers who may use the vehicle, will provide funds for maintaining the vehicle. It should also be noted that the fuel for the vehicle is free of cost and is unlimited.

- VI. Please provide the anticipated results of the project, and whether it is included in a City of Port St. Joe, City of Wewahitchka or Gulf County Comprehensive and Mitigation Plan?

Through the use of this vehicle, research can be conducted with minimal impact to the eco-systems, both flora and fauna, in the more remote areas of the preserve. Nesting bird areas and wildlife can be approached and observed with little or no noise, as is created by a conventional ATV. Trail Maintenance can also be conducted with this smaller vehicle, mitigating damage to trail paths and adjacent plant life. The dedicated use of this vehicle for visiting Scientists, Photographers, Botanists, and Friends Volunteers, will allow the current ATV owned by the Florida State DEP to be used exclusively by Buffer personnel and not have to be shared with the Friends group. This would result in less wear and tear on the State DEP vehicle as well as reduced fuel costs.

As an educational benefit to visiting students and visitors, the Photovoltaic Solar charging system will demonstrate how another fuel source may be used in the future to supplement the current conventional fuels used for power generation by this country.



The following Goal(s), Objective(s) and/or Policies included in the *Gulf County Comprehensive Plan* will be met, in part, by this project:

#### **Chapter 5: Coastal Management Element**

**POLICY 1.1.5:** *Gulf County will continue to promote a program of community awareness to prevent future disruptions and degradations of coastal resources.*

#### **Chapter 6: Conservation Element**

**GOAL 1:** *Protect, manage, and promote energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction and conserve the natural resources of Gulf County to ensure their continued best use for the current and future citizens of the County.*

**POLICY 1.1.6:** *Gulf County will permit the use of solar panels for electrical generation or solar heating for hot water...*

**POLICY 1.1.10:** *To advance the reduction of energy consumption, Gulf County will explore the use of solar energy at its recreational facilities, parking facilities and street lights.*

**OBJECTIVE 1.3:** *Gulf County will strive to conserve, appropriately use, and protect the quality and quantity of current and projected water sources and waters that flow into estuarine waters or oceanic waters by implementing Policies 1.3.1 through 1.3.9.*

**OBJECTIVE 1.4:** *Gulf County will conserve, appropriately use, and protect its natural resources, including fisheries, wildlife, wildlife habitat, marine habitat, minerals, soils, and native vegetative communities by implementing Policies 1.4.1 through 1.4.11.*

**POLICY 1.4.4:** *Gulf County will cooperate with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District to provide the fullest protection to County, State, and Federally-owned areas identified in the conservation and recreation elements that have been set aside for the protection of natural resources and public recreation.*

Submitted By:



President, Board of Directors

Signature

Title

2-26-13

Date

Friends of the St Joseph Bay Preserves

Company Name

3915 Highway C 30

Address

Port St Joe, FL 32456

Address

850-229-1787

Home: 850-229-2566

Telephone Number

ehrman.john@yahoo.com

E-mail Address (if applicable)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA  
**RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE (R.A.C.)**  
1000 CECIL G. COSTIN SR. BLVD., ROOM 312, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456  
PHONE (850)229-6144 • FAX (850) 229-9252 • EMAIL: tkopinsky@gulfcounty-fl.gov

**PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY AND PUBLIC ACCESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR**  
**GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT APPLICANTS**

I, JOHN EHRLMAN the undersigned authority and/or representative of the entity FRIENDS SJB PRESERVES and or the individual who has submitted the Gulf County RESTORE Act Proposal/Pre-Proposal titled ELECTRIC VEHICLE & SOLAR POWER RECHARGING SYSTEM hereby acknowledge, consent and accept the following representations that coincide with my/our submission for consideration, evaluation and possible recommendation and approval by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners for funding from the RESTORE Act distribution that strictly complies with the guidelines and regulations set forth under the Restoration and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012:

1. I/We am the authorized representative of the application/pre-proposal referenced above.
2. I/We have thoroughly reviewed and familiarized myself and/or my entity on which I have submitted the application/pre-proposal on behalf of with the entirety of the Gulf County Public Records policy.
3. I/We have thoroughly reviewed and familiarized myself and/or my entity on which I have submitted the application/pre-proposal on behalf of with the entirety of the Florida Statute Chapter 119 which controls and permits public access to information.
4. I/We hereby acknowledge, consent and agree to the controlling policies and statutes above as well as the free and open exchange of any and all submissions provided hereunder this application/pre-proposal and all information exchanged hereafter including but not limited to further amendments to these proposals as well as surveys, studies, research, data production, books, drawings, property records, work papers, county owner lists, files, forms, reports, accounts, documents, manuals, handbooks, instructions, printouts relating in any manner for the production of the application. In addition, all papers, notes, data, reference material, documentation, programs, printouts, and all other media and forms of expression that in any way include, incorporate or reflect any confidential information of what ultimately shall become the Gulf County plans for use and application of the RESTORE Act funding.
5. I/We acknowledge, agree and fully consent to cooperate with the appointed Gulf County RESTORE ACT committee, county officials and staff as a continuing obligation and condition of final review for this RESTORE Act application/pre-proposal.
6. I/We have submitted this acknowledgment to Gulf County RESTORE Act Committee and the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners for the purpose and intent of receiving an evaluation, review and possible recommendations for anticipated funding from the Restoration and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012.

  
Signature of RESTORE Act Applicant

Date: 2-28-2013

John Ehrman  
Printed Name